



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Larry Welch
Director

Paul Morrison
Attorney General

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I wish to announce that I have shared with Attorney General Paul Morrison my intention to step down as director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation at the end of May, 2007.

This provides ample time for Attorney General Morrison to select the eleventh director of the KBI and he has respectfully approved my request.

When I accepted the second invitation of my friend and then-Attorney General Bob Stephan to accept the directorship of the KBI in July, 1994, I was assured only of serving five months as KBI director. Attorney General Stephan had already announced he was not seeking another term as attorney general. And I was not well acquainted with any of the candidates seeking to succeed him.

Friends, colleagues and family members counseled me to not give up the security of director of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, near Yoder, to accept such an insecure, perhaps extremely temporary position in Topeka. My wife and I had just built a new home in Goddard, where we had raised our children. We were then surrounded with our grandchildren. A move made no sense.

However, my desire to be KBI director was strong and my ever-supportive wife agreed. She questioned my sanity, but agreed.

I had considerable, longtime ties to this historic Kansas law enforcement agency. I had known eight of the nine previous directors, all except the first director, Lou Richter. As an FBI agent in Kansas, I had worked with several KBI agents through the years, including legends such as Al Dewey, Jack Ford and Bob Clester, to name but a few. Moreover, the second KBI director, Logan Sanford, was a mentor of mine. We shared a hometown and he was a reference for me in my FBI application many years ago.

Thus, my decision in 1994 was an easy one, for me at least, even if foolish on its face at that time.

Now, incredibly, I have had the wonderful privilege and great honor to have served more than twelve years as the tenth director of the KBI, serving, including

Attorney General Morrison, four Kansas attorneys general. It is time for another to experience the privilege of leadership of the remarkable men and women of the KBI.

Departing administrators are fond of saying they hope they are leaving their particular agency better than they found it. I pray that I am leaving the KBI as good as I found it.

The KBI has been an exceptional asset to the Kansas law enforcement community, the Kansas criminal justice system and the citizens of our state since the Kansas Legislature, with considerable wisdom, created it in 1939. It remains so today. It shall always be so.

Finally, inasmuch as I still enjoy good health and continue to retain most of my original faculties, I'll be pursuing other interests and examining other possibilities at the end of my KBI tenure. Including, perhaps, writing a book on the history of the KBI, which some have urged.

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